

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: May 24, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:41 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Vernon Brown, Chair
Ron Gibson
Monroe Gray, Jr.
Bob Lutz
Dane Mahern
William Oliver

Absent Members

Bob Cockrum
Susie Day

PROPOSAL NO. 234, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$45,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to support the Stay in Bounds Character Discovery Challenge Program which seeks to instill positive character traits such as respect and integrity in youth participants, funded by a grant from the NCAA

"Do Pass"

Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 235, 2007 - approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$1,543,500 for the support of the arts

"Do Pass"

Vote: 6-0

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, May 24, 2007 at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA), 4000 N. Michigan Rd. Chair Vernon Brown called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. with the following members present: Ron Gibson, Monroe Gray, Jr., Bob Lutz, Dane Mahern, William "Duke" Oliver. Absent were Bob Cockrum and Susie Day.

PROPOSAL NO. 234, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$45,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to support the Stay in Bounds Character Discovery Challenge Program which seeks to instill positive character traits such as respect and integrity in youth participants, funded by a grant from the NCAA

Keith Cheney, Administrator, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), stated that this proposal is a request to appropriate \$45,000, a gift from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). He said that the program teaches the richer principles, which are respect, integrity, caring, harmony, excellence and responsibility. The gift will be used to pay for 18 part-time seasonal employees and program equipment.

Councillor Gray asked what Stay in Bounds means. Milele Kennedy, Site Coordinator with DPR, stated that the Stay in Bounds means to follow the richer principles and use those traits in your everyday life. Chair Brown asked what schools participate in this program. Ms. Kennedy stated that this program for this funding is used for day camps. She said that there are two sides to the Character Discovery Challenge. During the school year, the program is utilized within eight IPS elementary schools and during the summer, it encompasses day camps and playground programs throughout the city. Chair Brown asked if, during the summer, any child in Marion County has an opportunity to participate in the program. Ms. Kennedy stated that any child that is registered in any IndyParks or a partnered day camp will be able to participate.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Mahern arrived at 5:05 p.m.}

Councillor Oliver asked when the program runs. Ms. Kennedy stated that the program will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, June 4 – August 3, 2007. Councillor Oliver asked if there are any other Parks programs that stay open later into the evening. Ms. Kennedy answered in the affirmative and stated that this program is part of each day camp, not its own single unit and it facilitates a certain part of each day camp. She said that the camp hours extend throughout the entire day.

Lisa Leming, Manager of IndyParks, stated that there are several other programs in the city at the family and aquatic centers. She said that the family centers are open until 9:00 pm. Ms. Leming stated that there are many opportunities and they are published in the IndyParks Fun Guide.

Councillor Lutz asked if this proposal is appropriating a grant that was given. Chair Brown answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Lutz, to send Proposal No. 234, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 235, 2007 - approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$1,543,500 for the support of the arts

Mr. Cheney stated that these funds have already been appropriated into the budget. He stated that this process is where Council approves those specific local grants that are made under the Arts Council.

Dan Appel, Chairman, Indianapolis Arts Council, thanked the committee for its support of the Arts on behalf of the board, staff and the entire community. He said that the support does great things in three areas. The first is that the Arts are a key part of the vitality of Indianapolis, making Indianapolis and our community a very livable and inviting place, to not only our residents but visitors. He stated that the economic impact that the arts has on our community is tremendous. The \$1 million dollars that is approved is multiplied many times over and generates an economic impact well over \$300 million dollars for the community. Mr. Appel stated that the arts community has heard the need for public safety. He said that more programs, education, and outreach are directed towards public safety. He said some studies show that a child involved in any arts program is much more likely to become a more productive and successful individual in the community.

Maxwell Anderson, Director and CEO of the IMA, stated that he is pleased to have the committee at the IMA and to celebrate our peers who also anticipate the support that comes from the allocation provided. Mr. Anderson stated that this museum went to free general admission in January 2007 and the idea was to make sure every citizen and visitor in this city could take advantage of the collections that IMA has kept and preserved. He said that the result has been a tremendous outpouring of support from the community and IMA is taking in anywhere from 1,000 to 1,200 visitors per day. Mr. Anderson thanked the committee for being at the IMA and looks forward to seeing them again.

Greg Charleston, President, Indianapolis Arts Council, thanked the committee for coming out to the IMA to see and hear first hand one of the arts organizations and the different kinds of programs that the funding helps support. He said that the arts council is very pleased to continue the work with the Parks Department. Mr. Charleston gave some key service areas that the arts council serves. They are as follows:

- Advocacy and granting
- Arts Marketing

- Artistic and technical assistance
- City-wide cultural calendar

Mr. Charleston introduced David Lawrence, Vice President, Indianapolis Arts Council to discuss the process that the Arts council goes through to secure funding.

David Lawrence, Vice President, Indianapolis Arts Council, stated that the arts council grants process is based upon three tenets; fairness, objectivity, and inclusiveness. Mr. Lawrence gave a breakdown of how the grant process works.

- Grants process begins in the Fall with the creation and refinement of the arts council's guidelines and application materials
- Grant applications are revised each year
- Arts Council oversees grant workshops to give each application an opportunity to understand the process and apply for funding
- Arts Council spends months of consultation and review of individual applications prior to submission
- Proposal accepted in February and completed grant application provides a detailed analysis of the organization, their program, finances, government structure and outreach and community efforts

He stated that this information is critical in understanding and ascertaining how the organization will use these funds in a responsible and conscientious manner. Mr. Lawrence stated that in order to have a fair and objective adjudication process as well as being free from conflicts of interest, the arts council selects qualified arts professionals from around the country to serve on the grants panel. He said that the organizations sign contracts that legally hold them to fulfilling the requirements of the grant as awarded and payment schedules are based upon their compliance with the grant contract. Mr. Lawrence stated that the arts council and the entire arts community is grateful for the support of the enrichment of all the citizens in Marion County.

Councillor Mahern asked how many organizations are receiving these funds this year and have the number of participants increased or declined. Mr. Charleston answered that there are 72 organizations receiving funding and it is a few less this year than last.

Councillor Mahern asked how many new organizations are receiving grants that did not in the past. Mr. Lawrence stated that there are about six or seven that are new.

Chair Brown asked where the panel that reviews the grant applications is located. Mr. Lawrence stated that there were two from San Francisco, one from Ohio, and the other from Boston.

Councillor Gibson stated that he is thankful to the arts council for the things they do in the community and for those that take time out of their schedules to help in any way they can. He said that in the future, he hopes that there will be more funding for the arts.

Councillor Mahern stated that not only are there a lot of organizations, but they are spread out throughout the county and in different areas so that everyone in their different communities are able to access the different programs.

Councillor Lutz asked how much the funding amount was last year. Mr. Charleston answered that the total funding for this year is the same as last year \$1,543,000.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Gray, to send Proposal No. 235, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Charleston thanked the IMA and the committee for their continued support. He introduced Dave Thomas from the Indianapolis Arts Center to give a brief special recognition to some outstanding students.

Dave Thomas, Vice President, Indianapolis Arts Center, stated that the mission of the arts center is to engage, enlighten, and enhance our communities through art education, participation, and observation. He said that in addition to the 250 classes that are offered every semester and the 1,200 students that are on campus, there is a lot of working professional artists out in the community to serve children who would not otherwise be able to attend certain classes. Mr. Thomas stated that this program gives children an opportunity to be involved in something besides gangs, violence and drugs and gives them a lasting impact on their lives to become productive citizens. He said that last year, there were over 500 youth served by the program.

Laura Alvarado, Director, Indianapolis Outreach Program, thanked the arts council and committee for inviting them to the meeting to showcase some outstanding students. She said that the outreach program strives to bring high quality art education to children who have limited access to the visual art experience. She said that it is a necessary component to receiving a full education, as well as each and every child's right to receive and take part in this full education. Ms. Alvarado stated that engaging in the arts enables students to go beyond the idea of right and wrong answers; it initiates a critical thinking process and creativity that contributes to a fully developed adult.

Ms. Alvarado introduced four outstanding students who have stood out this year among their classmates. She stated that these students were nominated by the outreach artist instructors and will receive a certificate of completion. Those students are as follows: Jaylen Finch, Elise Monger, Zephaniah, and Dominique Turner.

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With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Brown, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

VB/law